

Norman Goldstein MD

Very special issues coming up

Our September issue of the *Journal* will be compiled by guest editor Florence Chinn MD. Florence retired from her internal medicine practice and as a medical consultant for the Hawaii Health Care Administration Division—but she is busier than ever! She serves on the Hawaii State Violence Prevention Coordinating Council and is co-chair of the Hawaii Medical Association Domestic Violence Prevention Committee. Look for the special issue on *Domestic Violence*.

Death with Dignity will be our special issue in November, edited by past president of the Hawaii Medical Association, Fred C. Holschuh MD. This issue promises to be one of our most stimulating, thought-provoking issues ever. We already have manuscripts from local and national authorities in the field.

We welcome *Letters to the Editor* on these subjects as well as others, even before the publication of the issues.

Specifically, if you presently care for terminally ill patients or plan to do so. We would like to hear from you. Write or fax me.

1128 Smith Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 523-6842

Carl W. Lehman MD

Why should medical doctors or osteopathic physicians belong to the Hawaii Medical Association?

Each year, physicians must reaffirm their commitment to organized medicine: joining the HMA lets us speak with one voice that represents a force in our community striving not only to uphold and protect our profession but also to set the standards, to be the advocate, to carry forth the visions our training and experience have provided. Paying dues to a professional organization must be judged by standards different from those when buying material items. Rather than analyzing how much a member saves or benefits from the amount of dues paid each year, one must look at what made it possible for us to attain our medical education and practice our profession as well as the contributions made to society.

Some of us have little knowledge about the achievements and accomplishments made on behalf of our profession by the medical association. I want to thank Becky Kendro for helping me collate this list of HMA accomplishments.

- This year marks the 20-year anniversary of bold and innovative legislation passed to address tort reform issues. As a key player on a community-wide Malpractice Commission, HMA physicians led the way in seeking legislation to set standards of informed consent, added an *ad damnum* clause to the law, established the Medical Claim Conciliation Panels to review all medical torts prior to entry into the courts, amended the Medical Practice Act to define more clearly grounds for licensure actions, and required reporting of adverse peer review actions to the Board of Medical Examiners. An umbrella insurance fund was created in an effort to reduce professional liability insurance premiums although this was later repealed.

This legislation has been of considerable importance to physicians as well as to those filing tort cases. The MCCP panels have been very successful in settling or dismissing malpractice cases prior to entry into a costly court system. Throughout the years, nearly 75% of all cases have been resolved at the panel level. The fact that the panels have been able to continue operations for the past 20 years speaks well for the dedication of the administrators, physicians and attorneys who serve on the panels.

- **Workers' Compensation.**—Nearly 30 years ago, the HMA introduced legislation guaranteeing injured workers the right to choose their own physician. Legislation requiring an annual adjustment in the schedule based on the Consumer Price Index was achieved by legislation fostered by the association. As changes in the Workers' Comp program occur, the HMA will continue to be involved.

- **Medicaid.**—The HMA has devoted many hours and resources to the Hawaii Medicaid



mel r. hertz
MBA, CFP
Certified Financial Planner

Pacific Tower, Suite 2944
Phone: 522-0100

derand

capital management group

Securities Offered Through IFG Network Securities, Inc.,
(IFG), Member NASD and SIPC. Financial Planning Services
Through Associated Financial Planners, Inc. (AFPF).



Registered Investment Advisor. mel r. hertz is a registered
principal of IFG and an associated person of its affiliate AFPF,
both of which are otherwise unaffiliated with derand.

Retirement Plans
•
Investment Management
Consulting
•
Life and Disability
Insurance
•
Charitable Remainder
Trusts